7. Testing for Avian Influenza have also been started at Regional Level *viz.*, Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune and Jallandhar. So far about 37,000 samples have been tested in the regional laboratories.

8. The training of veterinary personnel in preparedness, control and containment is continuing.

9. A National workshop on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza was organized at Pune during May, 2007 and recently a Regional Workshop of the North-Eastern States (Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal) was organized at Kolkata by Government of India from 26-28th July, 2007.

10. Custom authorities have been instructed not to clear any baggage of livestock products without getting it cleared by the quarantine officer first.

11. Guidelines issued to the states for further guidance to the poultry farmers.

12. States have already taken steps for preventing ingress of the disease and control measures.

CIFNET

2638. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the role of CIFNET in present day context of 'Skills Development';

(b) whether CIFNET can be termed as a Marine ITI institution;

(c) if not, whether CIFNET will be converted into a University;

(d) whether it is a fact that presently CIFNET produces a very poor and abysmal number of trained people; and

(e) the steps proposed to move CIFNET to the east coast to help to meet the new demand in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The role of CIFNET in present day context of 'Skills Development' includes (i) providing trained manpower for manning ocean going fishing vessels, (ii) producing managers required for the fishing industry and (iii) creating expertise in fisheries, nautical and marine engineering disciplines for service personnel.

(b) No, Sir. CIFNET is already conducting graduate level course in Fisheries and Nautical Sciences with affiliation to Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi.

(c) No, Sir. There are no proposals in hand to convert CIFNET into a University.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The CIFNET has already got a unit at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh besides one more at Chennai to meet the demand in the east coast.